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In re Application of :
Scott L. Nielson et al. :
Application No. 10/710,961 : **DECISION ON PETITION**
Filed: August 15, 2004 :
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a decision on the petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed December 31, 2007, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action mailed June 28, 2006, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the application became abandoned on September 29, 2006.

The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of an amendment, (2) the petition fee of \$770 and (3) an adequate statement of unintentional delay.

37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) requires a statement that "the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional." Since the statement appearing in the petition varies from the language required by 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3), the statement is being construed as the required statement. Petitioner must notify the Office if this is **not** a correct reading of the statement appearing in the petition.

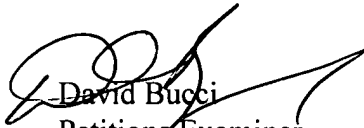
An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum extendable period for reply. See *In re Application of S.*, 8 USPQ2d 1630, 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1988). Since the \$525 extension of time fee submitted with the petition on December 31, 2007 was subsequent to the maximum extendable period for reply, this fee is unnecessary and will be credited to petitioner's deposit account.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

There is no indication that the person signing the petition was ever given a power of attorney to prosecute the application. If the person signing the petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney document must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until appropriate instructions are received.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Karin Reichle at (571) 272-6051.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 2128 for appropriate action by the Examiner in the normal course of business on the reply received December 31, 2007.


David Bucci
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Cc: Grant R. Clayton
Clayton Howarth & Cannon, PC
PO Box 1909
Sandy, Utah 84091-1909